(c) The terms and conditions prescribed for printing of these imported notes stipulate that they have to conform to the specimen of Indian notes in all respects and that strict security and confidentiality will be maintained till the end of the entire process. The estimated cost to be incurred on this would be US$ 95.28 million.

[Engilsh]

Illegal Detention by Enforcement Directorate

2717. SHRI THOMAS HANSDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some persons are illegally detained by the Enforcement Directorate in contravention of the Orders/ Directions of the Supreme Court;

(b) if so, the number of complaints Including physical torture, received in this regard; and

(c) whether the Government propose to enquire into the matter and issue directions to ensure that the orders of the Supreme Court are strictly followed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Cases Pending in Income Tax Appellate Tribunal

2718. DR. G.R. SARODE: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTIC be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of cases pending in the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT), till date;

(b) the number of cases which are likely to be referred to a third member due to difference to opinion between the two member of Bench of the ITAT;

(c) the total number of cases which are required to be referred to special Bench in the ITAT;

(d) since when all these cases are pending and the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government for clearing the pendency?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) The total number of cases pending in the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT) as on 1.7.1997 was 3,04,059.

(b) 33 cases.

(c) 6 cases.

(d) (i) out of the total number of 3,04,059 cases pending before the Tribunal, 2,22,966 cases pertain to the years upto 1995, 51,529 cases pertain to the year 1996 whereas 29,564 cases pertain to the year 1997.

(ii) Out of the total of 33 pending for reference to 3rd Member cases, 5 cases pertain to the year 1996 and 28 cases pertain to the year 1997.

(iii) All the 6 pending special Bench cases pertain to the year 1996.

Increasing institution of cases is the main reason for the pendency.

(e) Government has recently approved the creation of 15 new Benches of the Tribunal for clearing the pendency.

Excise/Customs Duty Evasion

2719. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN:

SHRI N. RAMAKRISHNA REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is lot ot excise and customs duty evasion by various tobacco product manufacturers in the country;

(b) if so, the details and value of such evasion alongwith the details of each manufacturer;

(c) the action being taken to recover the dues and penalise them;

(d) whether some senior department officials are also involved in these rackets; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the action being contemplated against such officials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Scheme of Insurance for Middle and Poor

2720. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM:

SHRIMATI PURNIMA VARMA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have proposed schemes for extension of services In insurance sector for the benefit of middle class and poor sections of the society; and

(b) if so, the names and salient features of these schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (b) The life Insurance Corporation (LIC) and the General Insurance Corporation (GIC) offer a variety of insurance schemes to cater to the requirements of the middle class and poorer sections of the society.

The Landless Agricultural Labourers Group Insurance Scheme (LALGI) provides as insurance cover of Rs. 2000/- on natural death of the head of the family between 18 to 60 years of age. No premium is payable